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1995/06/23

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO LOG-00 CA-02

OASY-00 TEDE-00 L-01 ADS-00 OCS-06

ONY-00

SSO-00

/010W

-----D2D039 231140Z /49-S

O 230946Z JUN 95 FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING TO AMEMBASSY BISHKEK IMMEDIATE SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8864 AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOIA Exemptions__ PA Exemptions_ () CLASSIFY st () S or () C Sec.
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S E C R E T BEIJING 027393

DEPT FOR EAP/CM, CA/OCS/ACS/EAP AND L/EAP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: CASC, PHUM, CH

SUBJECT: WHEREABOUTS REQUEST -- POLITICAL ACTIVIST HARRY

WU

REF:

STATE 151840

- 1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.
- AT APPROXIMATELY 10 AM BEIJING TIME ON JUNE 23, PRIOR TO THE RECEIPT OF REFTEL, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM A LOW RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE FOURTH DIVISION OF THE CONSULAR DEPARTMENT CONCERNING PETER H. WU AND SECRET

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PAGE 02 BEIJIN 27393 230944Z SUE HOWELL. THE CALL WAS TAKEN BY A LOCAL EMPLOYEE AND WAS QUITE UNCLEAR.

3. APPARENTLY WU AND HOWELL ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE PRC ON OR ABOUT THE 19TH OF JUNE AT A LAND BORDER CROSSING IN XINJIANG DESCRIBED AS HUO ER GUO ST WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR

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ON MOST MAPS BUT WHICH PROBABLY IS ON THE ROAD, SUCH AS IT IS, BETWEEN ALMATY AND URUMUI. THE CALLER INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME QUESTION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF THE TRAVELLERS' DOCUMENTS AND VISAS AND AN INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERTAKEN. THE CHINESE OFFICIAL ALSO STATED THAT THE INVESTIGATION WITH RESPECT TO HOWELL WAS "CONCLUDED." NO FURTHER INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED.

- WE HAVE COMMENCED LOW-KEY INOUIRIES TO DEVELOP MORE INFORMATION BUT AS YET DO NOT KNOW WHETHER EITHER TRAVELLER WAS, OR IS STILL, DETAINED, OR WHETHER EITHER OR BOTH WERE ADMITTED OR DENIED ENTRY TO THE PRC. WITHOUT SERIOUSLY COMPROMISING WU'S IDENTITY WE CANNOT PRESS MUCH HARDER FOR INFORMATION BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS WITH THE CHINESE AS IF IT WERE SIMPLY A ROUTINE WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS CASE. AS PRC GOVERNMENT OFFICES NO LONGER WORK ON SATURDAYS, WE DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 26. WE WILL REPORT ALL RESULTS OF OUR INQUIRIES IMMEDIATELY.
- THE PHONE CALL FROM THE MFA CONSULAR COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WAS UNUSUAL BUT NOT UNPRECEDENTED. BE SIGNIFICANT THAT ONLY HOWELL'S CASE WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING BEEN "CONCLUDED." HALLFORD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** SECRET